

WASHINGTON – U.S. Representative Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) delivered the following remarks today on the House floor in response to media reports that former President Carter will visit with Hamas leader Khaled Meshal next week:

“The Washington Post reports that President Carter will visit Syria next week to meet with a Hamas assassin, Khaled Meshal. The State Department lists Hamas as a foreign terrorist organization, and it is responsible for the murder of at least 26 American citizens.

“David and Nava Applebaum of Ohio, killed just before their wedding;
Alan Beer of Ohio;
Marla Bennet of California;
Benjamin Blutstein of Pennsylvania;
David Boim of New York;
Yael Botwin of California;
Dina Carter of North Carolina;
Janis Ruth Coulter of Massachusetts;
Sara Duker of New Jersey;
Matthew Eisenfeld of Connecticut;
Tzvi Goldstein of New York;
Judith Greenbaum of New Jersey;
David Gritz of Massachusetts;
Dina Horowitz of Florida;
Rabbi Eli Horowitz of Illinois;
Tehilla Nathanson of New York, age 3;
Malka Roth of New York;
Mordechai Reinitz of New York;
Yitzhak Reinitz of New York;
Leah Stern of New Jersey;
Goldie Taubenfeld of New York;
Shmuel Taubenfeld, 3 months old, of New York;
Nachshon Wachsmann of New York;
Ira Weinstein of New York;
Yitzhak Weinstock of California.

“President Carter, the voices from the grave beseech you – do not meet with the man that ordered the murder of these American citizens. I urge members to sign our letter asking former President Carter not to meet with the killer of American citizens.”

The letter currently circulating to members of Congress is below.

President Carter
The Carter Center
One Copenhill
453 Freedom Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30307

Dear President Carter:

On April 8, 2008, Al-Hayat reported that you were planning to visit Syria next week to meet with Hamas leader Khaled Meshal.

The U.S. State Department lists Hamas as a foreign terrorist organization. Hamas terrorists are responsible for the murders of at least 26 American citizens—some of them teenagers, children and infants:

David Applebaum of Ohio; Nava Applebaum, 20, of Ohio; Alan Beer of Ohio; Marla Bennet of California; Benjamin Blutstein of Pennsylvania; David Boim, 17, of New York; Yael Botwin, 14, of California; Dina Carter of North Carolina; Janis Ruth Coulter of Massachusetts; Sara Duker of New Jersey; Matthew Eisenfeld of Connecticut; Tzvi Goldstein of New York; Judith Greenbaum of New Jersey; David Gritz of Massachusetts; Dina Horowitz of Florida; Rabbi Eli Horowitz of Illinois; Tehilla Nathanson, 3, of New York; Malka Roth, 15, of New York; Mordechai Reinitz of New York; Yitzhak Reinitz, 9, of New York; Leah Stern of New Jersey; Goldie Taubenfeld of New York; Shmuel Taubenfeld, 3 mos, of New York; Nachshon Wachsmann, 19, of New York; Ira Weinstein of New York; and Yitzhak Weinstock, 19, of California.

President Carter, these American voices from the grave beseech you – do not meet with the man who ordered their deaths

Sincerely,